

# **U.S Physical & Political** **Geography**

## **Chapter 1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter One Vocabulary

1. Geography: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Natural Resources: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Irrigation: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Push Factors: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Pull Factors: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Region: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Chef M.I.M.A.L.: \_\_\_\_\_
10. 4 Corners: \_\_\_\_\_

# Notes

## Section One: Geography

- I. Geography is the study of people, their environment, and their resources.
  - a. Geographers explore two questions:
    - i. How does the natural environment affect the way we live?
    - ii. How do we affect the environment that we live in?
- II. **5 Themes of Geography**
  - a. Geographers developed 5 themes to help them study connections between people and their environment. .
  - b. **Theme 1: Location**
    - i. Used to explore WHERE something is on the Earth's surface.
    - ii. 2 types of location
      1. Exact location
        - a. Identifies the precise location of something on the earth's surface.
        - b. Exact location can be identified using longitude and latitude or by specific name.
      2. Relative location
        - a. Identifies location of one place in relation to another place. (Ex: Clarks Summit is northwest of Scranton)
  - c. **Theme 2: Place**
    - i. Used to explore an area's physical and human features.
      1. Examples of physical features
        - a. Vegetation, natural resources, bodies of water, etc...
      2. Examples of human features
        - a. Language, religion, transportation, housing
  - d. **Theme 3: Interaction**
    - i. Used to explore the way humans and their environment impact one another.

ii. When humans and their environment interact, one of two outcomes is possible.

1. We adapt to our environment (Clothing, AC)
2. We change our environment to suit our needs (Irrigation)

e. **Theme 4: Movement**

i. Geographers study the movement of people and goods from place to place.

1. Why do people move?

- a. Push Factors: forces that cause people to leave their homes
- b. Pull Factors: forces that attract people to settle in a new location

2. How do people move?

3. What do they take with them?

- a. Tangible?
- b. Intangible?

f. **Theme 5: Region**

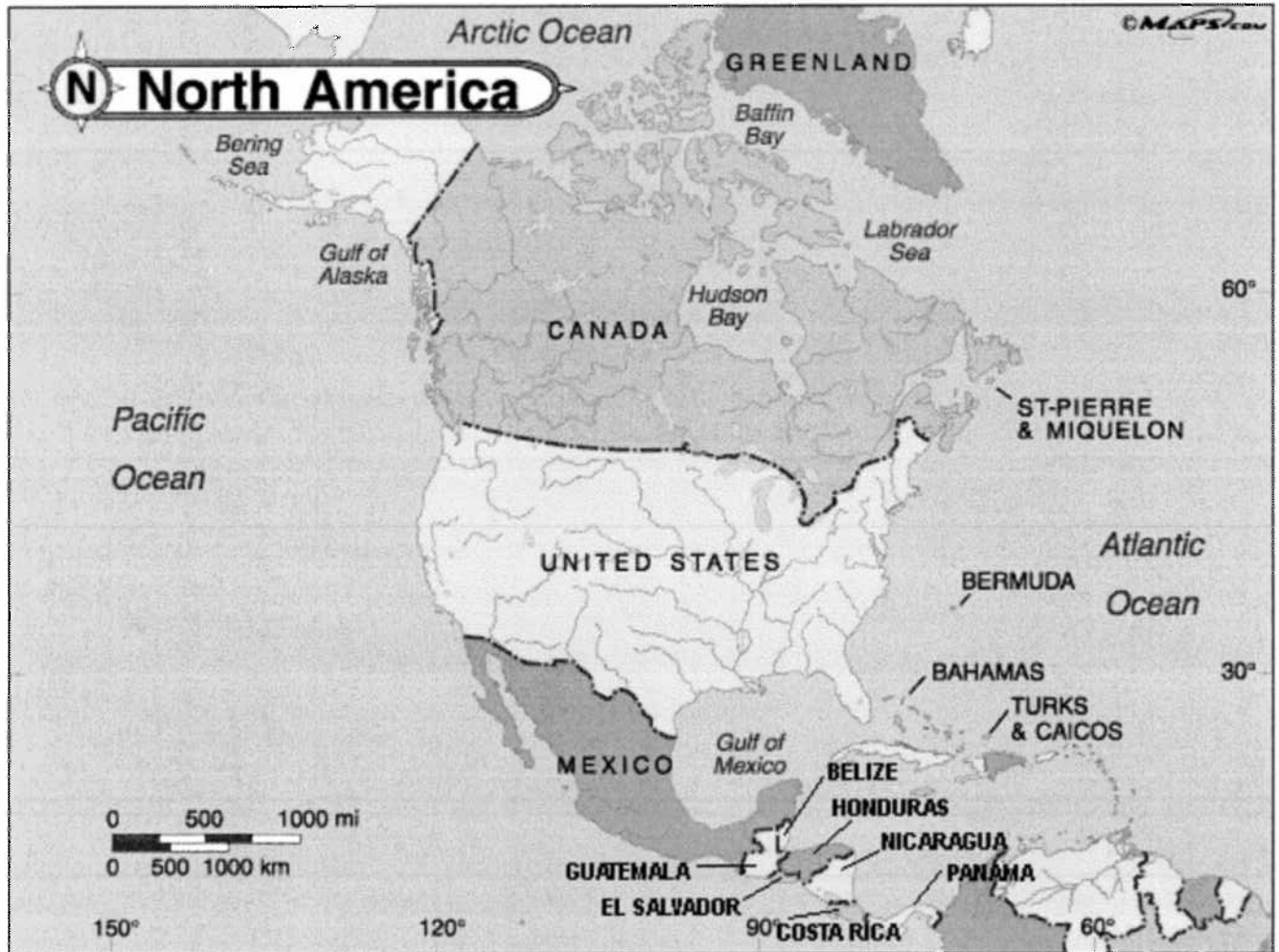
i. Region refers to an area with certain unifying physical or cultural characteristics.

ii. Examples: Great Plains region, Rocky Mountain region, Latin America

## Section Two: United States Geography

### I. Location of United States

- a. The U.S. is located in the continent of North America.
  - i. North America is in the northern and western hemispheres
  - ii. North America extends from Greenland to Panama and includes 42 countries/territories



### II. Political Makeup of the United States

- a. The United States is made up of 50 states, each with its own capital
- b. The nation's capital is Washington D.C.
- c. The United States is made up of 6 territories including Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Midway Island, Federated States of Micronesia.

### III. **Physical Makeup of the United States**

a. The 50 states are divided into 8 geographical regions

#### **1. North Atlantic Region**

- a. Many states borders the northern Atlantic Ocean
- b. Land is rocky and hilly and therefore is not suitable for farming.
- c. Winters are long and cold, Summers are short and mild
- d. Home to the nation's largest city: NYC
- e. Includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York

#### **2. Mid-Atlantic Region**

- a. Land is fertile and good for farming food like wheat and corn
- b. Many natural resources: coal, steel and oil
- c. Heavily populated
- d. Includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

#### **3. Southeast Region**

- a. Most states border the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico
- b. Long summers, fertile soil and abundant rainfall make it perfect for growing cotton and tobacco
- c. Includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

#### **4. Midwest Region**

- a. Part of the Greta Plains and Central Plains
- b. Abundance of flat fertile land make it perfect for farming

- c. "Breadbasket" of the United States-corn, wheat, soy beans, cattle
- d. Includes Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Kansas

**5. Southwest Region**

- a. Hot and very dry
- b. Irrigation has allowed the southwest to become habitable. Many people move there for the warm, dry climate
- c. Includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas

**6. Rocky Mountain Region**

- a. Landscape is dominated by the Rocky Mountains
- b. Modern transportation has made it possible for people to live and work in the mountains.
- c. Includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

**7. Pacific**

- a. Ranges from warm and tropical to hot and dry.
- b. Has a long coastline that borders the Pacific Ocean
- c. popular tourist destinations
- d. Growing technology and communications industries
- e. Includes California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii

**8. Pacific Northwest**

- a. Varies greatly in climate ranging from moderate to arctic.
- b. Large coastline bordering the Pacific Ocean
- c. Includes Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon



- b. The United States is home to a wide variety of different geological features and landscapes. To help you become familiar with the Geography of the United States, complete the map assignment of the next page.

Map exercise: Using page 622 of your textbook, locate and label the following places on your map:

### **Rivers and Waterways**

(Shade or Trace in blue)

1. Mississippi River
2. Missouri River
3. Columbia River
4. Snake River
5. Arkansas River
6. Red River
7. Colorado River
8. Ohio River
9. Great Salt Lake
10. Lake Superior
11. Lake Michigan
12. Lake Huron
13. Lake Erie
14. Lake Ontario
15. Lake Champlain
16. Atlantic Ocean
17. Pacific Ocean
18. Gulf of Mexico

### **Mountains**

(Label mountains already provided on your maps)

19. Appalachian Mountains
20. Rocky Mountains
21. Cascade Mountains

### **22. Sierra Nevada Mountains**

### **Mountains (Continued)**

(Indicate individual mountains with a single filled in  $\Delta$ )

23. Mt. Rainier
24. Mt. McKinley

### **Plains**

(Shade each plain green)

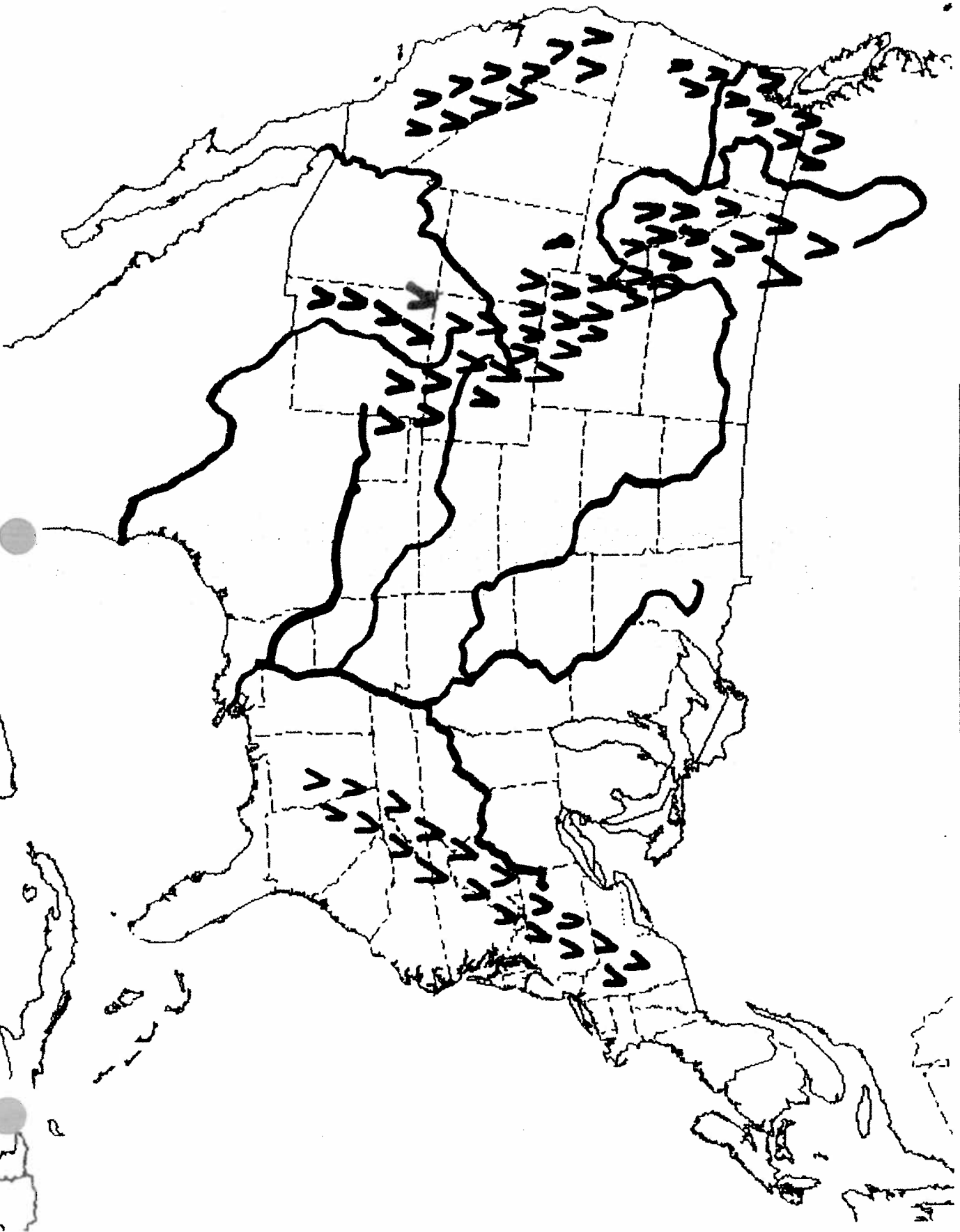
25. Great Plains
26. Interior Plains
27. Gulf Coastal Plain
28. Atlantic Coastal Plain

### **Canyons**

(Place a box around each canyon)

29. Grand Canyon

# U.S. Physical Map



# **Resources**